

[English]

Agreement for Joint Development of Cellular Mobile Telephone System

1336. SHRI SYED SHAHABUD-DIN: Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are considering to enter into an agreement with a foreign firm for Joint development of cellular mobile telephone system;

(b) whether initially 25,000 lines are proposed to be imported to meet the demand of the metropolitan cities; if so, the cost thereof, capital and recurring;

(c) the average urban and rural population in the country served by one telephone connection separately as on April 1, 1991;

(d) the number of Gram Panchayats with population of 5,000 and above which do not have any telephone connection as on April 1, 1991; and

(e) whether the Government consider postponing the introduction of cellular mobile telephone in the country?

THE DEPUTY MINISTER IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI P.V. RANGAYYA NAIDU): (a) Against a Tender Enquiry of M/s Motorola, a U.S. firm, for development and supply of cellular application platform, C-DOT has submitted a bid and signed a letter of intent with M/s Motorola to enter into a contractual relationship that will enable Motorola Cellular Systems to work with C-DOT switches through appropriate interfaces.

(b) No Sir.

(c) The average urban and rural population in the country served by

one telephone connection separately as on 1-4-91 is 51 and 1154 respectively.

(d) Out of 4,503 villages having population of 5,000 and above only 133 villages do not have any telephone connection as on 1-4-91.

(e) No, Sir. All aspects of the proposal are under examination.

[Translation]

Sidhmukh and Nohar Projects in Rajasthan

1337. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the present position of the Sidhmukh and Nohar Projects in Sri Ganganagar district of Rajasthan;

(b) the estimated cost of those projects and the area likely to be irrigated thereby; and

(c) the time by which those projects are likely to be completed?

THE MINISTER OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VIDYACHARAN SHUKLA): (a) The Sidhmukh and Nohar Projects of Rajasthan have been accorded investment clearance by the Planning Commission in July 1990. The State Government has informed that work on these projects has been taken up in 1990-91 and a total expenditure of Rs. 1.46 crores was incurred in that year. For 1991-92, an allocation of Rs. 4.75 crores has been made. Both these projects have been posed for external assistance.

(b) The estimated cost and the area to be irrigated by these projects is as under:—

Project	Cost (Rs. Crores)	Annual Irrigation (hectares)	Tehsils benefitted
Sidhmukh	103	13620	Nohar and Bhadra in Sriganganagar district and Rajgarh and Taranagar in Churu district.
Nohar	40.59	13665	Nohar

(c) These projects are being implemented by the State Government under its State Plan. The completion of these projects will depend on the budgetary allocations made by the State Government and the amount of external assistance which may become available.

States affected by famine

1338. SHRI GIRDHARI LAL BHARGAVA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) the amount of Central assistance sanctioned to the famine affected States during the last year;

(b) the amount released by the Union Government and the amount utilised by the States therefor;

(c) the target fixed for generating employment opportunity by each State; and

(d) the details of the actual achievements made so far?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI MULLAPPALLY RAMACHANDRAN):

(a) to (d) Based on the recommendations of the 9th Finance Commission, the scheme for financing relief expenditure has undergone change with effect from 1st April, 1990. Under the revised scheme, a Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) has been constituted for each State with an allocated amount, of which 75% is contributed by the Central Government as a non-plan grant in four quarterly instalments

and the balance amount is arranged by the concerned State Governments from their own resources. An amount of Rs. 804 crores has been allocated to various States under this CRF on annual basis, of which Rs. 603 crores is contributed by the Central Government and balance Rs. 201 crores is contributed by the State Governments. A Statement indicating the Statewise allocation under the State Calamity Relief Fund, Centre's and States' contribution thereon is at Statement I.

2. A State Level Committee headed by the Chief Secretary of the State is empowered to decide on all matters connected with the financing of relief expenditure including norms of assistance. The sectorwise allocations including employment generation in the wake of drought are decided by the State Governments themselves from the State Calamity Relief Fund keeping in view the severity of the situation. The Union Government is not required to fix any target for the various natural calamities and for various sectors. With the creation of C.R.F., the State Governments are required to meet entire expenditure on management of natural calamities.

3. The Government of India had released its entire central share of Rs. 603 crores to all the State Governments during 1990-91.

4. The details of expenditure, reported by the State Governments in respect of natural calamities relief during 1990-91 are given in statement-II.